Beyond comfort zone and classroom
Celebrating 50 years of Interim
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One of the things I appreciate most about Wofford is the faculty’s enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and commitment to students. They teach, but they also mentor, advise, listen, question and challenge students to stretch themselves. Wofford faculty are just as interested in the growth and development of their students as they are in keeping up with the research and trends in their respective academic disciplines. This combination is essential when preparing students for the roles they will take upon graduation — roles that provide both private fulfillment and contribution to the public good.

This is our purpose. This is our mission, and I thank each of you for doing your part to ensure that Wofford College students have every opportunity to find excellence, engagement and transformation.

Go, Terriers!

Nayef

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Tom O’Neal ’19, an environmental studies and German major from Columbia, S.C., spent the fall semester studying abroad in Freiburg, Germany. Again this year Wofford made the top 10 in the nation for the percentage of students who study abroad for credit. The college rose to #4 in the 2017 Open Doors ranking. Read more online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday.

Mike Ayers retired in December as head football coach after 30 years and the leadership of three presidents (from left Dr. Nayef Samhat, Ayers, Dr. Joe Lesesne and Dr. Bernie Dunlap). Photo by John Byrum.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

Of bean boots and the Matterhorn

Fifty years ago Wofford President Charles Marsh as well as Wofford faculty and trustees realized that changing political and social structures were encroaching upon the Wofford community in ways they could no longer control. This time of uncertainty, however, opened the door for experimentation, and Interim was born. This issue of Wofford Today celebrates the innovative spirit of Interim and the faculty, staff and students who continue to explore, engage and expand the walls of the traditional classroom through civic engagement, study abroad, undergraduate research and entrepreneurial thinking.

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The piano key crossing between the Montgomery Music Building and the Papadopoulos Building is the ideal site for a tribute to the Beatles and their Abbey Road album cover. Dr. Beau Christ, assistant professor of computer science, taught a class during the college’s 50th Interim that studied the Beatles, but the students in the photo above spent their Interim learning to play the acoustic guitar under the instruction of Dr. Eun-Sun Lee, professor of music.
B. GRADUATES SURPRISE BETH CLARDY WITH SCHOLARSHIP GIFT
Beth and Michael Clardy have no children of their own, but they are known as “Mama Beth” and “Pops” to some 70 Wofford students and alumni — students they have taken under their wings and into their hearts and family for 16 years. Now, the “Clardy Kids” have honored them with the Clardy Family Endowed Scholarship Fund. Continued online.

C. CREATING A NEW STUDENT FITNESS CENTER
With the construction of the Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium, Wofford has converted the Benjamin Johnson Arena in the Campus Life Building into a first-rate facility for campus fitness, intramural, club sport and recreational activities. The new space includes three multi-use courts, a walking/running track, cardio and weight-training equipment and renovated locker rooms. Continued online.

D. WOMEN’S LACROSSE MAKES COLLEGE HISTORY
The Wofford women’s lacrosse team made college history when it competed in the program’s inaugural game in Gibbs Stadium. The team didn’t win, but Hannah Mutch ’19 was named the SoCon Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Week. She is the first to win the conference award because this is the first season the SoCon has sponsored the sport. Continued online.

E. PRESIDENTIAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR REVIEWS FOR THE ARTS
Wofford continues its national reputation of being accessible and affordable with recognition on The Princeton Review’s list of “Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools that Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck,” released in January. Wofford also has been ranked highly by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, Forbes, Money and U.S. News. Continued online.

F. IN THE ROSALIND SALLENGER RICHARDSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
The college has several exciting exhibits this spring in the new Rosalind Sallengar Richardson Center for the Arts, including works by Coastal Lithograph Projects, and the South Carolina permanent collection, Spartanburg artist Jim Creal and the South Carolina Coastal Lithograph Projects, and student art exhibits from studio art capstone projects. Continued online.

G. WOFFORD REMAINS NATIONALLY RANKED BEST VALUE
Of 2,000 startups presented at Plug and Play, the world’s largest startup accelerator, Jack McDonald ’18 and Voyway made the top 20. Voyway is a mobile travel app distinctive in its convenience and aggregation of information. It’s geared toward small businesses and allows for paperless expense reporting while providing traditional travel and booking as well as useful point-of-interest research. Continued online.

H. MCDONALD DEVELOPS APP TO IMPROVE BUSINESS TRAVEL
Wofford launches ContinuTrav®, an Engaged Faculty Fellows Program
Josh Conklin returns to Wofford as head football coach
Defining the standard
From coffee farm to college campus
What goes into the farming and production of coffee?
Class notes
The long road home
Book your escape
Read more about these and other stories at wofford.edu/woffordtoday »
Terrier fans reveled in Wofford’s 79-75 victory over the University of North Carolina, the defending national champions, on Dec. 20, 2017. The Terriers also enjoyed a 63-60 win over Georgia Tech a few weeks earlier.

During 2017, Terrier Club donors gave $1,636,531 to support Wofford’s 364 student-athletes. More than 1,000 people attended the Terrier Ball, which raised $288,000. Terrier Club members also supported the college by participating in golf tournaments and in the Goal Line Club.
Dr. Rodger E. Stroup '68 only had the chance to take one Interim while at Wofford. He was a senior 50 years ago, when the college implemented the January Interim. Still, that one, monthlong course, Dr. Lewis P. Jones’ Orbiting Seminar of South Carolina, greatly influenced Stroup for the rest of his life.

BY LAURA HENDRIX CORBIN
went to Wofford intending to go to law school, but Dr. Jones made history so interesting that I decided to go to graduate school in history," says Stroup, who retired in 2001 after spending 16 years at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, retiring as director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. "The Orbiting Seminar cemented my interest in social and cultural history and in preserving our history — not only the written history, but the preservation of archaeological sites, buildings and other artifacts."

"So, Wofford, Dr. Jones and the Orbiting Seminar were pivotal in my career," Stroup says. "I still keep my hand in the preservation of our history, working as a volunteer at the South Carolina Railroad Museum in Winnsboro. Dr. Jones was a big railroad fan — and I am just now completing a book on the history of the South Carolina State Fair."

Interim originated from the college's desire to have a more cross-disciplinary approach, says Dr. Joe Lesesne, Wofford's president from 1972 to 2000, who was the first Interim coordinator back in 1968. "We wanted to be less departmentally oriented and for students to experience more interrelations with disciplines, to prepare them for life after their studies."

Interim courses had to be innovative and experimental, and participation had to be required to be effective, Lesesne says. Among those innovative courses was Theatre Workshop, taught by Dr. J.R. Gross, in which students explored "creative possibilities of acting, directing and staging plays..." It was the beginning of Wofford Theatre and modern Interim's Pulp Theatre, the all-student group that Wofford Theatre and modern Interim's staging plays..." It was the beginning of Wofford Theatre and modern Interim's Pulp Theatre, the all-student group that Wofford Theatre and modern Interim's staging plays..."

Lesesne says, "Interim opened such incredible and diverse offerings — almost always way outside of traditional course work offerings. In many ways, I feel that Interim cut a path for much of Wofford's more progressive classroom and cultural changes and opportunities that continue today."

His junior-year Interim, Origins of the American Revolution with Dr. Phil Rains, was his favorite. "It was more reading than I had ever done before, but has remained an interest, and those are the only academic books I have read again." Stroup says Interim also gives students a way to make lifelong friends. He and classmates Charlie Gray '72, former director of alumni and parent programs and director of Lifelong Learning at Wofford when he retired in 2005, and Doyle Boggs '70, retired executive director of communications and marketing at Wofford, organized an Orbiting Seminar "reunion" in the late 1990s and continued it annually for about 15 years.

He believes the original tenet of Interim was true for him, and remains true 50 years later: "Interim allows students to step out of their comfort zone and try something that they might not otherwise do, or it provides an opportunity to delve more deeply into an area that you were interested in learning about." Interim still harkens back to the original Interim proposal to give "both teacher and student the liberty to explore, to experiment, to try new approaches, and in doing so, to run risks that cannot be run during the regular semester when the emphasis is different..." The Interim program has as its keynote innovation and experimentation."

The advent of student study/travel abroad began with that first Interim, Lesesne says. He and a group of other faculty and staff took about 60 students to Mexico for two weeks to study the language and culture while living with families there. "Wofford's whole foreign study program for students really came out of Interim."

Peter J. Darling '71, of Turner, N.H., a first-year student when Interim began, says, "Interim opened such incredible and diverse offerings — almost always way outside of traditional course work offerings. In many ways, I feel that Interim cut a path for much of Wofford's more progressive classroom and cultural changes and opportunities that continue today."

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1. Dr. Dave Sykes, professor and chair of computer science, spent the month working with students interested in creating a Wofford app.
2. Wofford students in Prague during 1969 watched history in the making during the Soviet invasion.
3. Alex King '19 (left) and Megan Kuhn '18 traveled to Tibet and Nepal during the '90s to experience the cultural history and in preserving our history — not only the written history, but the preservation of archaeological sites, buildings and other artifacts."

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1. In 2000 Wofford students and professors traveled to the Forbidden City during an Intern to China.

2. Fredy Madrid ’20 (with Congressman John Lewis) and Wofford Bonner Scholars learned about community development in Spartanburg and Washington, D.C.

3. Wofford’s ROTC program offered a hang gliding intern in 1982.

4. Vera Oberg ’20 did independent research in the Philippines, where she studied children in poverty.

5. Students in Climbing ROCKS! with Dr. Kim Rostan, associate professor of English, and Ben Cartwright, assistant professor of accounting, explored the physical and intellectual elements of rock climbing.

6. Carter Rief ’19, Helen Cribb ’18 and Cristian Widenhouse ’18 walked the French Way of the Camino de Santiago. They focused on tourism and pilgrim initiation.

7. Dr. Lewis P. Jones’ Orbiting Seminar of South Carolina, first taught in 1968, inspired in many students a lifelong love of history.

8. Janet Henderson ’18 (shown) and Mark Matthews ’18 researched the influence of new communications technology on economic development in Dakar, Senegal. They presented a paper on their research at the South Carolina Political Science Association Conference.

9. Dr. Chuck Smith, associate professor of biology, traveled with students to Vietnam and Cambodia to compare old and new Asia.

10. Students in Dr. James Bednar’s Inventor’s Lab experimented with 3D design and printing. Bednar is an associate professor of philosophy.
The POWER of the GIFT

From the heart
Cassandra Baker McLeod establishes John Guyton McLeod Jr. 66 Endowed Scholarship for the love of her life

by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89
The Wofford football game was always on when John Guyton McLeod Jr. ’66 and his wife, Cassandra Baker McLeod, drove from Madison, Ga., to Dewees Island, S.C., on Saturdays in the fall.

“She and I were diagnosed the same year,” says Cassandra, who was breast cancer free for 26 years before this most recent diagnosis. “I went to talk with him because he had just joined our board. I still remember he had on a blue Oxford shirt and khaki pants that were a little frayed on one cuff. His tie was pulled down. Let’s just say he looked really good.” She still blushed at the memory.

They worked together professionally for several years before dating. She should have known it was serious when he invited her to the family vacation home on Dewees Island. He asked her to marry him in 2000 after a jog on Edisto Island, where the Baker family had a vacation home. They were married the next year. She was 50, he was 57.

“I was an only child, so John gave me family — two wonderful stepdaughters (Becky and Amanda McLeod Groves), five grandchildren, two sisters-in-law (Matey McLeod Ward and Harriet Harlee McLeod), plus the huge McLeod clan with its many ties to Wofford. All of this McLeodness truly changed my life,” says Cassandra.

John Guyton McLeod, John’s father, was a 1931 graduate of Wofford, and his grandfather, Daniel Melvin McLeod, graduated in 1890. The McLeod legacy that started with William James McLeod, Wofford, and his grandfather, Daniel Melvin McLeod, graduated in 1888, has extended to more than 40 McLeod brothers and sisters (28 of whom were Wofford graduates). The William James McLeod Award is given each year during the college’s Honors Convocation to the senior who has demonstrated potential for future dedicated and selfless service to the church, the state, the nation and Wofford College.

“John and I were together such a short time, but that time was filled with a lifetime of love,” says Cassandra, who hopes that family and friends also will honor John’s memory by adding to the scholarship. “People give for so many different reasons. My reason isn’t lofty. I just did it from the heart.”

“The Wofford football game was always on when John Guyton McLeod Jr. ’66 and his wife, Cassandra Baker McLeod, drove from Madison, Ga., to Dewees Island, S.C., on Saturdays in the fall.

“He would get so excited listening to the game on the radio that he would practically jump up and down in his seat yelling, ‘Go, mighty Terriers.’ I’d say, ‘Are they really mighty, John?’ and he’d always say, ‘Yes, ma’am, they are!’ He loved Wofford,” says Cassandra. She has only the fondest memories of the four years that they were married before John’s untimely death from pancreatic cancer in 2005. “That’s when I decided I wanted to establish a scholarship at Wofford in John’s memory.”

Cassandra has included a significant bequest to Wofford in her will, but decided to go ahead and establish the John Guyton McLeod Jr. Endowed Scholarship with a gift in 2017 when she received a second breast cancer diagnosis. The scholarship will be fully funded by the bequest.

“Cancer was the determining factor for starting the scholarship now,” she says. “I wanted to be able to honor John and his family during my lifetime. Knowing that the money will go ahead and benefit Wofford students also makes me happy.”

Cassandra’s past work in Spartanburg as executive director of the Spartanburg Arts Council and the Spartanburg County Art Association as well as the connection through the arts and ETV with Wofford also influenced her decision.

“I love Spartanburg. It was my second home,” she says. “I made great friends there that I still keep in touch with.”

Cassandra often jokes with John’s daughter Becky McLeod Connelly ’96 that she feels sure they crossed paths during the 1990s when Becky was a student at Wofford and Cassandra was with the arts council.

Cassandra accepted a job as executive director of the Madison Morgan Cultural Center in Madison, Ga., after 14 years in Spartanburg. There she met John, whose wife, Mary, had died in 1993 from colon cancer.

“People give for so many different reasons. My reason isn’t lofty. I just did it from the heart.”

“John majored in biology at Wofford and was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, as many of the McLeods have been. He was a U.S. Army officer and veteran of the Vietnam War, for which he received a Bronze Star. He began his career in human resources and retired as corporate vice president of Arado Brands Inc.

‘John was a giving, wonderful person who had the highest of values and integrity. He never spoke unkindly about anyone."

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“John loved to fish (he fished for their supper then practiced catch and release). He loved to hike and play tennis, and he loved circumnavigating the island in his rowing shell. He ran three miles a day, and did the finances for our church on the Isle of Palms. He also gave so much of his time to the Dewees Island community, and really every community he ever lived in,” says Cassandra.

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Prior to walking across the stage at Commencement and becoming members of the Wofford College Alumni Association, the Class of 2017 established their legacy by making their first gifts to the college. They set a new senior class giving record of 65 percent and raised the bar for commitment to The Wofford Fund.

During 2017, donations to The Wofford Fund totaled $3,288,175, with $1,636,531 of that total raised in scholarships for student-athletes through the Terrier Club. (See more information on gifts to the Terrier Club on page 6).

**Gifts to The Wofford Fund Support:**

- The Area of Greatest Need
- Academic Scholarships
- Athletics Scholarships through the Terrier Club
- Faculty and Staff Development
- Library and Technology
- Student Experiences

During the past year, 94 percent of Wofford students received some form of financial aid. The Wofford Fund helps make that possible. Other resources for students and faculty come from planned gifts (see more on pages 14-17), endowed scholarship donations, corporations, foundations and the United Methodist Church. Giving to the college in 2017 totaled $29,964,778.

While raising funds is certainly a big part of the Office of Advancement’s role at the college, Advancement staff also support Alumni Engagement, Parent Engagement and Lifelong Learning at Wofford, a program for older learners in our community. This past year the Office of Engagement and Annual Giving launched the online Wofford Book Club (wofford.edu/bookclub). In addition, a dozen graduates met with students through The Space in the Mungo Center’s Lunch and Learn Speakers Series.

For more information about giving priorities, an honor roll of contributors and ways you can get involved, visit wofford.edu/supportwofford.

**“As a psychology major, technology and research play a critical role in my education. I’m grateful that I have abundant access to exceptional resources that aid in continued learning. Thanks to our donors, the technology available to Wofford students makes the classroom experience positive, informative and innovative!”**

RESHARIA KELLER ’18

**“Wofford professors see their students as more than just learners or performers in the classroom, and they take the time to invest in students and form meaningful relationships.”**

WILL RANDALL ’19

**“We appreciate that Wofford has allowed us to have a true family experience while giving Will the independence and autonomy to make his own decisions. It is important for our student to see the sincerity of our active involvement, to realize our appreciation for his hard work and to have the support of us as parents as well as that of the wider Wofford community.”**

LAURA AND MARK DAVIDSON
PARENTS OF WILL DAVIDSON ’19 AND CHAIRS OF THE PARENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Coleman thinks about teaching as a gateway to allow students to acquire new information that’s built upon previous experiences. "It’s clear. Also I feel that students do not always have the obstacles in the morning that they meet later in the day.

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT WOFFORD STUDENTS?
"They are polite. I was told that even in the interview process. I prefer morning classes. I’m fresh in the morning, and my thought process is more used to the hard work ethic that I saw in my mom and a week into the job somebody didn’t show up for work. They asked me if I was willing to try working the register, and I said yes. There’s always a way to work through and work up.

MORNING OR AFTERNOON CLASSES
"I use Snapchat to watch Ella, my dog, at daycare. I look at The New York Times app multiple times a day, and I have a few fitness apps that I like.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Morris believes it’s important to demonstrate relevance in the classroom, where the connections to people and places are not always obvious or clear. "I prefer to teach afternoon classes because I’m more productive as a writer in the morning and use that time to do my research and writing. I think it’s important to talk with students about my own successes and failures as a writer — my practices — that understand their research and writing. All teaching and my students give me energy in the afternoons.

IF YOU COULD TAKE WOFFORD STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?
"I worked at a movie theater in the small town in Colorado where I grew up. I got to go to the movies for free, but the best part of the job was my boss. He was influential as a mentor because of the passion, energy and generosity in which he approached his work. He hired local people and gave opportunities to others. — I also learned how to spin.

FIRST JOB
"I worked at Taco Bell. I worked there with five or six friends, and I learned how real it is to work with people you care about and feel value. I also learned that sour cream and guacamole guns are formidable weapons. Before that, when I was 13, I had to do community service work for my entire life I would.” During his doctoral program, Morris ran an outreach program that took scientists to jails and prisons to teach science and conservation. "They built a pond at the jail and inmates raised a rare species of fish while learning skills they could transfer to life after parole.

IF YOU COULD NO LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
"I prefer morning classes. I’m fresh in the morning, and my thought process is more used to the hard work ethic that I saw in my mom and a week into the job somebody didn’t show up for work. They asked me if I was willing to try working the register, and I said yes. There’s always a way to work through and work up.

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IF YOU COULD TAKE WOFFORD STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?
"I worked at a movie theater in the small town in Colorado where I grew up. I got to go to the movies for free, but the best part of the job was my boss. He was influential as a mentor because of the passion, energy and generosity in which he approached his work. He hired local people and gave opportunities to others. — I also learned how to spin.

FIRST JOB
"I worked at Taco Bell. I worked there with five or six friends, and I learned how real it is to work with people you care about and feel value. I also learned that sour cream and guacamole guns are formidable weapons. Before that, when I was 13, I had to do community service work for my entire life I would.” During his doctoral program, Morris ran an outreach program that took scientists to jails and prisons to teach science and conservation. "They built a pond at the jail and inmates raised a rare species of fish while learning skills they could transfer to life after parole.

IF YOU COULD NO LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
"I prefer morning classes. I’m fresh in the morning, and my thought process is more used to the hard work ethic that I saw in my mom and a week into the job somebody didn’t show up for work. They asked me if I was willing to try working the register, and I said yes. There’s always a way to work through and work up.

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT WOFFORD STUDENTS?
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MORNING OR AFTERNOON CLASSES
"I use Snapchat to watch Ella, my dog, at daycare. I look at The New York Times app multiple times a day, and I have a few fitness apps that I like.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Bersak tends to favor practically over the abstract, so he often gives students opportunities to practice concepts. His research in the field of artificial intelligence focuses on evolutionary computation, which employs the concepts of Darwinian natural selection to find near-optimal solutions to problems. “Life is optimization, every creature attempting to maximize its niche in the environment,” says Bersak. “I apply that same idea to find solutions to engineering problems.” Bersak has done research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and most recently has been working on energy modeling, optimizing buildings to improve energy efficiency.

TALENTS OR HOBBIES
“I play table-top role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons. I have a group of friends that I have played with for years. We play online every Wednesday. I mostly run the game. I’ve been running this particular campaign for almost two years.”

IF YOU COULD NO LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
“If I could no longer teach, I would go to work in the software industry. My two favorite things in the world are making software and making software engineers. If you force me to give up doing the one, I guess I would just do the other.”

IF YOU COULD TAKE WOFFORD STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?
“I think that the most important benefits of traveling are the personal growth and sharper perspective that we find, especially about the place where we live. We don’t have to travel far to find a broader view, as long as we’re engaged with and open to it. I wouldn’t want any travel experience to be purely an exercise in vanity, for myself or for students. It should be an experience that opens our eyes and clarifies our roles in shaping the world around us. There are plenty of those experiences, even nearby, if we’re willing to see them.”

MUST-HAVE SMARTPHONE APPS
“I use Audible the most.”

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Garrett incorporates engaged learning into his classes and likes to plan hands-on projects for his students. His research interests are in computer vision, essentially teaching computers to understand what they are looking at. It’s a subfield of artificial intelligence. “I want to make computers more intelligent through cameras,” says Christ.

FIRST JOB
“My parents owned a Sears in Beatrice, Neb., so most summers I worked for them. I did sales, basic repair work, delivery, custom- er support. ... I feel like everyone should have this experience. I learned how to sell an idea, communicate and deal with difficult situations.”

TALENTS OR HOBBIES
“I’m a huge Beatles fan and love to analyze their music; I taught the Beatles Interim in January. I’m also a musician and play guitar, piano and violin as well as a variety of other instruments. I have a small recording studio at home. … I’m also a member of the Wofford faculty band. If I couldn’t teach, I’d be a full-time musician.”

FAVORITE MEAL IN THE BURWELL DINING HALL
“For me it’s the dessert table. I’m really big on bread pudding and crème brûlée.”

BERNADINE DIXON
B.A., B.S., Boston University; M.S., Ph.D., Clemson University

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Dixon considers herself a teacher of critical thinking through the study of the ancient world. “I help build what Carl Sagan calls a balloon (or B.S.) detection kit. I want students to explore a place that is a time that is different from their own, but they’re not just memorizing details from a book; they’re also learning how we create knowledge, and are creating it at the time in acade- mia.” She’s a Phenicianist, who studies ancient Syria, Lebanon and Northern Israel/Palestine, specifically their sacred ideas about life, death, the afterlife, and how they think about their gods and what they believe about the afterlife. Currently she’s working on the idea of “symbolic mum- ification.” Before coming to Wofford, Dixon was part of a five-person team in Helsinki, Finland that was awarded an eight-year, $11 million euro grant to start a new think tank on ancient Near Eastern empires. She’ll be back in Helsinki this summer and also will be presenting and conducting research in Georgia, Italy and England. For Wofford students that means a growing network with top scholars in the field and opportunities for archaeological experience.

FIRST JOB
“In high school I made gift baskets, putting candy and cookies and coffee mugs in baskets and wrapping them in cellophane to be delivered to businesses. I learned a satisfaction at getting good at something. I could look at it and say, ‘I’ve made a beautiful basket.’ I loved the presen- tation aspect of it. I guess that’s why I’m still doing when making a website or 3D model of a temple. I’m putting a little bow on it.”

TALENTS OR HOBBIES
“My favorite hobby is to go to cemeteries and take pictures of graves that have been requested for genealogical research through Findagrave.com. I love walking around and hiking outside in a beautiful, quiet place doing historical research.”

MORNING OR AFTERNOON CLASSES
“Afternoon. I know I’m a good teacher if I can keep students interest- ed at 3 p.m.”

IF YOU COULD NO LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
“I would work in a museum. I love being around ancient objects and introducing them to people.”

BRITNEY JONES
B.A., McGill University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
“Music is a universal language and an experience with light, sound and time. I love art, film and digital media in general. I am currently working on energy modeling, optimizing buildings to improve energy efficiency.”

FIRST JOB
“I would probably be an artistic filmmaker. You get to take a moving image and create an experience with light, sound and time.”

TALENTS OR HOBBIES
“I am an avid video gamer and used to beta test video games for PlayStation. I’m a big fan of action and RPG games, and I just got into virtual reality.”

MUST-HAVE SMARTPHONE APPS
“I love my meditation app. Google Arts and culture definitely, and Google Sky Map. I use that all the time to navigate and find the stars.”

ANTHONY PAUL
B.S., Spellman College; M.F.A., Georgia State University

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Paul introduces students to new perspectives on traditional and contemporary works of art and artists. “I’m an avid video gamer and used to beta test video games for PlayStation. I’m a big fan of action and RPG games, and I just got into virtual reality.”

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TOM BERGSON
B.A., B.S., Boston University; M.S., Ph.D., Clemson University

TEACHING AND RESEARCH
Bersaglia, an assistant professor of art and art history, teaches a variety of courses that explore a wide range of art historical concepts and approaches, from the medieval and Renaissance periods to modern and contemporary art. “I’m an avid video gamer and used to beta test video games for PlayStation. I’m a big fan of action and RPG games, and I just got into virtual reality.”

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JESSICA SCOTT-FELDNER
B.A., B.S., Boston University; M.S., Ph.D., Clemson University

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Scott-Feldner is an assistant professor of computer science. “I would be a full-time musician.”

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B.A., DARTMOUTH UNIVERSITY; M.A., PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Brewitt was an environmental educator for five years before entering a Ph.D. program. He sees teaching as telling a story with his students as an integral part of that continually changing narrative. His research involves the politics of ecological restoration; specifically he’s been working on a project that deals with the politics of dam removal in the Northwest. His book is under review by Oxford University Press. Brewitt considers working with Wofford's students to be the capstone students particularly rewarding. “Through the process, they go from excited to daunted to frustrated, but then they’re proud of what they’ve accomplished at the end.”

TALENTS OR HOBIES

“I love climbing mountains and backpacking. That’s what my wife and I really like to do when we aren’t working. When we were in our 20s, we climbed an 18,000-foot peak in Mexico then got caught in a snowstorm on the way down and had to sleep on an uprooted part of the mountain. I’m glad we got lost, but it was certainly a big adventure, and it drew me and my life partner together.”

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT WOFFORD STUDENTS?

“I love Wofford students. It’s a tie between how hard they work and what interesting people they are. The size of the classes we have here and the type of classes I teach offer opportunities to get to know students holistically. They take themselves and their work seriously. They want to do well and learn, and they handle themselves professionally.”

IF YOU COULD NO LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

“I’d try to write non-fiction books, like Bill Bryson.”

MUST-HAVE SMARTPHONE APPS

“I just got a smartphone a month ago, so my must-have would be the smartphone itself, and I made sure to get one that had the flashlight. I was with the flip phone for a long time. But I have mixed feelings about how tied people are to their phones and how it’s hard to disconnect, but it’s an almost magical tool. Maybe the biggest improvement to life with a smartphone is having a map always with you.”

B.A., B.S. KINROSS COLLEGE PH.D., PURDUE UNIVERSITY

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Davis compares learning chemistry to working puzzles. He’s already solved the puzzle of getting students to come to his office by keeping an impressive stock of candy readily available, not a surprise considering his research interest in flavor chemistry. He loves working with students on research and in his first year at Wofford received a grant through the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy matched by the Wofford Office of the Provost to purchase new equipment for teaching.

TALENTS OR HOBIES

“A lot of Student Wins commercial good cooks, so not surprisingly, I like to bake.”

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT WOFFORD STUDENTS?

“Wofford students appreciate the challenge. They’re not complacent. They want to be pushed.”

MORNING OR AFTERNOON CLASSES

“Morning classes just because it gets me on campus early. The earlier I’m here, the longer I’m available for my students.”

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Before graduate school, Newman taught English in Russia for two years. There he met his wife, and they had their first child. He believes in experiential learning, for the learning process to be “a full-body experience”, inspired by Chomsky. He opened up his own tennis and golf shops, so he often falls back on sports metaphors. Even as a college professor, he sees himself as a coach, teaching his students through experiences that help them discover themselves and the world. Newman’s research interests include teaching and assessing intercultural competence, how best to help students prepare for the workplace. At Wofford he has a course focused on education for global leaders and one on relating intercultural competencies and the language programs at Wofford.

FIRST JOB

“My uncle’s dry cleaner in Sumter, S.C. It was a family business so I learned how to do laundry, iron and to do my own work and professionalism. It was physical work, tough work, but the atmosphere that my grandfather and uncle built was one of doing things well and right, whether or not anyone was watching. They treated their Customers’ clothes as if they were their own. I also learned to value personal connections and the respect you build for different people from different backgrounds.”

FAVORITE MEAL IN WOFFORD’S BURWELL DINING HALL

“Probably fried chicken, fried okra and collard greens. I like how they do traditional Southern cooking.”

IF YOU COULD NOT LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

“I’d open a bakery. I almost went to culinary school.”

Dr. CAROLYN MARTZBERG

B.A., COLLEGE OF HOLY CROSS; M.A., PH.D., DUKE UNIVERSITY

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Because of the technical nature of her field, Martzberger works hard to help her students personally identify with the concepts they are learning. She helps students to see the personal side and the global impact of her research. Martzberger works with Wofford students to determine ways to deconstruct physiological signals to determine an array of health measures of their patients.

TALENTS OR HOBIES

“I love to dance, and I used to be a very committed Irish step dancer. I considered dropping out of high school to dance full time.”

WHAT DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT WOFFORD STUDENTS?

“The students here are really open-minded and they’re generous with each other, and that spirit of thoughtfulness helps create a very nice learning environment. They’re also hardworking and committed. They try their best.”

MORNING OR AFTERNOON CLASSES

“Morning. Teaching is one of the best parts of the day for me. When I was a kid there was a Pops cereal commercial that featured a girl climbing a ladder up a high dive. When she reached the top, she leapt off the diving board and gracefully dove into a beautiful body of water. That’s what starting the day teaching at Wofford feels like. It’s the best!”

Dr. R. HANRAHAN

Teaching and Research

A stock of Monopoly games sits in Dr. Leebrock’s office. She uses them to play an alternative version of the board game which helps her develop a better sense of stratification and inequality in the United States. Leebrock likes using activities such as this one to help students apply the concepts they are learning to everyday life. Her teaching philosophy is guided by creating an environment in which each student feels heard and comfortable speaking. Leebrock’s dissertation examined environmental gentrification in South Central Appalachia, and she continues to be involved in a mixed-method analysis of the economic impacts of recreation tourism in the New River Gorge of West Virginia. She recently received funding to continue the research over the summer.

FIRST JOB

“I worked at a fixed supply store on Saturday mornings in the summer. I learned a lot of things about the community I grew up in. Later I worked as a plant manager for a tractor, then I developed an interest in environmental justice and a better sense of the struggles that migrant agricultural workers face. That had a really big impact on me.”

TALENTS OR HOBIES

“I love roller coasters. I love trivia and board games; I once played Risk for eight hours straight. I enjoy baking. I also love to hike and have a 10-year-old daughter, a dog named Wheeler and a cat named Clementine.”

IF YOU COULD NOT LONGER TEACH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

“I’d probably work for the Seal Conservation Society, as a park ranger or trainer writer.”

IF YOU COULD TAKE WOFFORD STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?

“I’d say Mexico. I think that getting to know the culture and meet the people, to hear the stories of their lives and to exchange our stories would be a very authentic and meaningful experience to have with students.”

B.A., COLLEGE OF HOLY CROSS; M.A., PH.D., DUKE UNIVERSITY

Dr. ZACHARY DAVIS

B.A. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, M.A. PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Davis’ research programs focus on how to make Wofford students more adaptive and prepared to study abroad anywhere in the world, where would it be?

B.A., UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, M.A. PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Dr. BRITT NEWMAN

B.A., HOLLINS UNIVERSITY; M.A., VIRGINIA TECH; PH.D., UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Newman has been working on an Interim proposal now to take students to northern Italy. “I’m working on an Interim proposal now to take students to northern Italy. I’d probably work for the Seal Conservation Society, as a park ranger or trainer writer.”

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IF YOU COULD TAKE WOFFORD STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD IT BE?
A Year of Lessons Learned

» WOFFORD LAUNCHES COMMUNITY-ENGAGED FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

PARTNERING WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL
For more than 15 years Wofford Spanish 303 students have spent an hour a week learning more about language and culture, social inclusion and the public education system while tutoring and mentoring children in the Arcadia area, a predominantly Hispanic community about 10 minutes from campus.

PARTNERING WITH THE OLD AND THE YOUNG
Wofford psychology students have met course requirements by volunteering with both the community’s oldest and youngest citizens as a way to experience behaviors they’re learning about in the classroom while offering time and companionship in return.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS
Environmental studies faculty build community engagement and field work into most of their courses, and the Milliken Sustainability Initiative has further enhanced community partnerships in the Northside and Glendale communities.

BY JO ANN MITCHELL BRASINGTON ’89
Part of that assistance came from Dr. Laura Barbosa Rhoden, associate professor of Spanish, who began introducing community-based learning into her Spanish 303 classes not long after coming to Wofford. Now Barbosa Rhoden serves as the program’s faculty consulting fellow.

“We started the partnership with Arcadia Elementary School during the 2001-02 academic year in the same way that my colleagues new to community-based learning started this semester,” she says. “Staff at Arcadia approached us with interest in collaborating, and we said, ‘Let’s figure it out’ and we did. Now there are four sections of 303 that have a community-engagement component.”

Barbara Rhoden is familiar with incorporating civic learning into the academic space, turning experience into critical reflection and building trust in the community. “By something I slugged through that I can now share with others.”

She admits that engaging students meaningfully in the community is not an easy thing. It means living with discomfort and uncertainty. It also means that at times success is measured in terms of lessons learned.

“Greatest takeaways would be how conscientious and generous our faculty are in participating in this program. They’ve provided great feedback and have lived with this interactive process with generosity and a commitment to improvement,” she says. “Creating some space where community stakeholders and Wofford faculty and staff are in the same space, working with each other, and being open minded, has been really helpful. It made me rethink some things.”

Dr. Camille Bethea, who also teaches Spanish 303 classes, says that those new to community-based learning were not the only ones to learn from the experience.

“Young students have taught Spanish 303 took this as an opportunity to be more intentional about building in intercultural competence, about requiring students to think about what they experience in the community and what it teaches them about their own culture,” says Bethea. “I also found the piece of interacting with colleagues and sharing insights really helpful. It made me rethink some things.”

Bethea, who continues to enjoy her time in the Arcadia community, also has been a longtime volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg. She believes in both the lessons learned from community engagement and the benefits to the community, and she’s thrilled when her students begin to understand the concept as well.

“Habitat 303’s experience is a lot about culture and issues that are occurring in Hispanic/Latin countries and communities by spending time with children from that background,” says Ashton Stanford ’20, a biology and Spanish major from Boiling Springs, S.C. “I gave friendship, hope, dedication and love. I took away new lessons, including a greater understanding of the community, the people around me and how I can make a difference.”

“It’s a perspective I can’t teach strictly in the classroom,” says Bethea.

Terril Bates, executive director of the Spartanburg Housing Authority, also has seen the benefits from a community perspective. “We are finding that our residents are connecting with a youthful perspective that brings delight,” says Bates of the Intergenerational Fellows. “Our staff is significantly impacted as the attention that the residents receive from the students assuages their anxiety, their fear and provides a very caring engagement for them. Our hope is that the students also will gain insight and information that will positively impact their professional journeys.”

Dr. Amy Telligman, assistant professor of environmental studies, Dr. Gerald Thurmond, professor of sociology and anthropology, Dr. Kara Ropp, professor of psychology, and Dr. Jeremy Henkel, assistant professor of philosophy, are all incorporating community-based learning in their classes this spring. Telligman is doing two different community engagement projects: Sustainability Science students will work with Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg to weatherize a home, and Sustainable Food Systems students will collect data for a community food system assessment. Thurmond’s class, Sociology of the Family, is partnering with the Spartanburg Housing Authority and Victoria Gardens residents to do after-school programming for children and youth. Ropp is continuing her intergenerational work in the community with her Adult Development and Aging students.

Henkel is eager to build on the legacy of involvement with local schools. Henkel’s Wofford students taking Critical Thinking this semester will partner with local elementary school teachers and administrators looking to develop classroom materials to elicit more reasoning and critical thinking from students, and to pilot award-winning Philosophy for Children curricula.

“I hope our students see that philosophy does have practical value. It’s not just about facts or formulas or ideas. In teaching critical thinking to elementary school students, our students will be learning how to reason and argue better,” Henkel says. “I hope this will be a long-term thing, not just a semester thing, because it will be good for both our students and local elementary-aged children.”

A second class of CEFFs is in the works, and the CCBP and CEL are planning to add a “CBL” (community-based learning) course designation beginning with registration for the 2018-19 academic year so students can look for additional opportunities to learn on campus and in the community.

“... a GENUINE PARTNERSHIP in which the people in the room are respected for who they are and what they’ve done...”

Dr. Jim Neighbors

Additional partnerships have formed during the 2017-18 academic year thanks to the new Community Engaged Faculty Fellow (CEFF) program, launched in the fall by the college’s Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL) and the Center for Innovation and Learning (CIL) as a way to institutionalize support for faculty who have shown an interest in including a civic engagement component in their classes.

“Wofford and Spartanburg have shared resources since the college was founded in 1854, but increasingly the college has made civic engagement a priority,” says Dr. Mike Sosulski, provost.

“Preparing students for the complex world they will contribute to after graduation means offering them real opportunities to practice, engage and explore in that world.”

During 2017-18, 15 members of the faculty across nine disciplines accepted the challenge, in the fall and four this spring.

According to Jasselyn Story, director of the CCBP, 184 Wofford students took a class this past fall that incorporated community-based learning. “The end-of-term surveys showed that 89 percent of Wofford students who took a class with community-based learning said the civic engagement component of their courses challenged them to do their best work — in part because they weren’t just doing it for themselves or their professors; they felt a responsibility to the community to do their best,” Story says.

Faculty fellows reported that the civic engagement component of the class improved student understanding of self, empathy, morality, concern for the well-being of others and critical-thinking skills. FACulty recognized personal benefits as well. All of the participants said they gained new insights and understanding about the community.

“The CEFF program builds on the groundwork laid in 2016-17 with the $75,000 Arthur Vining Davis Foundations grant to strengthen civic engagement through the use of educational technology,” says Story. “This new program is designed to develop trust-based, mutually beneficial partnerships between Wofford and the community that will enhance student learning and address community-identified needs.”

Dr. Jim Neighbors, associate professor of English, says the CEFF program has been an ideal vehicle for a project within his humanities class to tell the story of the “Back of the College” neighborhood that once stood between Wofford and Spartanburg Medical Center.

“The emphasis on working with the community — and not in a way that would allow for any kind of social hierarchy, but a genuine partnership in which the people in the room are respected for who they are and what they’ve done, in which everyone can learn from each other — is a great model,” he says. “Our community partners, Brenda Lee Pryce, Mitch Kennedy with the city of Spartanburg, Brad Steinbueck with the Spartanburg County Public Libraries, and Monier Abushah “is with the local NAACP, helped us make connections in the community, and the college’s CEFF program provided some financial support and a lot of logistical and helpful pedagogical support who have shown an interest in including a civic engagement component in their classes.”

With the help of community-identified needs.”

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On Jan. 5, 2018, Dr. Begoña Caballero-Garcia became the college’s first dean of diversity and inclusion. The title, however, just makes official the work she’s been doing at Wofford and in the Spartanburg community for almost 12 years.

“I love teaching, and I have a passion for social justice and for fighting prejudice and stereotypes,” she says. “If you have a job that you have a passion for, then you have an ideal job, and that’s the case for me.”

Since she joined the Wofford faculty, Caballero-Garcia, associate professor of Spanish, has woven diversity and inclusion into her curriculum, creating a new Spanish 201 course tied to a living learning community for first-year students. Social Consciousness: Developing Skills for the 21st Century focuses on building Spanish-language competence within a culture of social consciousness, empathy, leadership, personal responsibility, respect, collaboration, inclusion, diversity and social justice. She encourages students in her Advanced Spanish Oral Proficiency course to pick controversial topics in Spain and Latin America to study. Her 400-level Spanish Theater course deals with plays that have characters who are marginalized because of race, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender or birthplace, and her Culture of Spain course includes a grant-funded component that incorporates Middle Eastern and North African Studies to break stereotypes about the Muslim world.

Caballero-Garcia has brought numerous speakers to campus to promote diversity and inclusion and has organized panel discussions on topics ranging from immigration and DACA to the lives of diverse artists. In addition, she advises the college’s RESULTS student organization that works to fight poverty in the United States, participates in Spartanburg’s Hispanic Alliance, has volunteered with the Spartanburg International Festival and YouthBASE in Greenville, and has served as a pro bono Spanish/English interpreter at local health fairs and schools.

“I am truly delighted that Dr. Caballero-Garcia will be stepping into this important role at Wofford,” says Dr. Mike Sosulski, provost. “The leadership she already has demonstrated in diversity and inclusion promises exciting things ahead.”
In the coming year Caballero-Garcia will work closely with Demario Watts, assistant dean of students for diversity and leadership development; Arsenio Parks, admission counselor and director of diversity and inclusion for admission; the Presidential Committee on Diversity and Inclusion; and various student, faculty and alumni groups organized to foster a more diverse and inclusive community. She is charged with:

- Taking the 2017 Report of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion as a starting point and collaborating with faculty and staff colleagues in crafting strategies to increase and support curricular and co-curricular diversity.
- Assisting the provost in implementing a sound strategy for the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty.
- Supporting faculty development around inclusive pedagogies.
- Facilitating intergroup/interpersonal dialogue around difficulties among members of the community and collaborating with trained campus mediators when acute differences of understanding need to be addressed.
- Co-sponsoring educational experiences — curricular and co-curricular — that foster student learning across difference.
- Collaborating with staff who support international students and who advise students who study in international and domestic off-campus programs.
- Leading and coordinating diversity planning, including identifying and creating new initiatives that demonstrate the college’s commitment to a welcoming, inclusive environment for all of its students, faculty, staff and visitors.
- Overseeing a budget for activities that promote diversity and inclusion, such as diversity training, guest speakers and workshops on inclusive pedagogies.

Caballero-Garcia was born in southwest Spain, not far from Portugal. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Extremadura and then completed a master’s degree in Latin American and Spanish literature from Western Michigan University and a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her first memory of prejudice came during childhood.

“In my community there were gypsies. People would say that they were dirty,” she remembers. “My mother was a teacher. She would always explain to us that they are normal people, just like us, and we should not have prejudices or believe stereotypes.”

Now Caballero-Garcia shares that same lesson with her Wofford students. She telecollaborates with colleges and universities around the globe to introduce her Wofford students to peers in other countries. She also encourages international travel and study, especially when students have the opportunity to live with local families so they can have more authentic, meaningful experiences.

“It’s important that students are not just tourists,” she says. “We want them to have home stays, to belong to a family so they get to know the culture. It’s important that students get a good knowledge and are prepared to accept differences and fight their own stereotypes.”

Caballero-Garcia has led Wofford students on trips to Spain, Vietnam and Cambodia, Peru and Cuba. Her pre-departure experience in the classroom includes leadership training, cooperative games and strategies for promoting openness to new people and experiences.

Whether traveling with students, promoting diversity within the Spartanburg community or working toward a more inclusive campus, Caballero-Garcia says it’s about creating an environment where people feel that they belong and can express themselves.

“There’s more to each of us than our color, gender or ethnicity,” she says. “We’re not just Hispanic or white or black. Why not focus more on what we have in common? We are more alike than we often realize.”

“WE’re NOT JUST HISPANIC OR WHITE OR BLACK... WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN WE OFTEN REALIZE.”

Caballero-Garcia (right) with Wofford students in Vietnam in 2012.
Top down: Caballero-Garcia and Andrew Green, associate professor of finance, traveled with students to Cuba. Here they pose in Parque Natural Topes de Collante in January 2016.
Caballero-Garcia visited a mosque in Rock Hill, S.C., in November 2016 with students in her Spanish 201 living-learning community.
After a cooking class in Spanish, Caballero-Garcia and students savored dishes from Spain and Latin America in the senior village apartments.
Caballero-Garcia has taken three Interim trips to Machu Picchu. Dr. Anne Catlla, associate professor of mathematics, also led the group in 2011.
For the college’s 23rd head football coach, returning to Wofford was an opportunity to come home. After being hired by longtime Wofford football coach Mike Ayers more than a decade earlier to coach defensive backs and then special teams, Josh Conklin knew Wofford was a good fit. And although he was thankful his career took him to work with two Power Five conference teams, the Terriers were always on his mind. “About two years ago I went through a transformation in terms of evaluating what’s important, and I decided that to me it’s people and relationships,” says Conklin. “At Wofford, people and relationships are the root of the college and the root of the Athletics Department. Here it’s about the student-athlete, it’s about academics, it’s about building a staff of good people, and it’s about watching the players graduate and go on to do great things.”

“I didn’t think at 38 years old I would have this kind of opportunity,” continues Conklin, “but when they contacted me I thought, ‘this could be something really special.’”

The return to the Upstate also brought Conklin and his wife, Molly, closer to family. Conklin’s in-laws live in Spartanburg and have Wofford roots — his father-in-law, Al Clark Jr. ’76, was a four-year football letterman at the college, as was his brother-in-law Al Clark III ’01. It was Al Clark III, a then staff member with the Terrier Club, who introduced Conklin to Molly on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007, the night of the Wofford-Richmond playoff game. “She was supposed to be on a date with another guy that night, but fortunately for me he got sick,” says Conklin. “I saw her for the first time on the grassy hill next to the Verandah lot. We went to church together the following Sunday, then on a lunch date ... We never looked back and were married four years later.”

Conklin’s interest in academics started at an early age. Both of his parents were elementary educators, and education was of primary importance to them. “I have a love of teaching and a love of learning, and a college like Wofford allows you to become connected with the entire community — with the faculty, the staff, the other students. Wofford is a family.
environment, and Molly and I appreciate that — there’s a lot of love here, a lot of family. And thanks to Coach Ayers, the football program is a place where coaches can bring their kids, where it’s a family. It’s the place I want to be.”

Conklin includes Ayers on his short list of mentors and major influencers, along with his mother, father and in-laws. He also credits Ayers for a large portion of his coaching philosophy, which starts and ends with the relationships he has with his players. “I think you really have to understand how guys function and view the world, and understand that every generation is different. To be a successful coach, you have to be willing to understand what motivates your players — what drives them to perform at a high level,” says Conklin. “I want our fans to see a team that runs the ball physically, that stops the ball physically. I want the team to play tough, hard-nosed football and we win games in a methodical fashion. That’s the brand it has been, that’s the brand that needs to continue, and that’s the brand that needs to expand.”

“Josh is the complete package,” said Wofford Director of Athletics Richard Johnson during Conklin’s introduction to the campus community. “He has the Wofford DNA we were looking for along with a great depth and breadth of external experience. We are thrilled to have him carry on the legacy of Mike Ayers and Wofford football.” Although the heart of the college is the same, upon his return Conklin has been impressed with the strategic additions he sees on the campus. “The facilities have always been good, but the new Jerry Richardson Indoor Stadium and the Rosalind Sallenger Richardson Center for the Arts are really magnificent,” says Conklin. “The college has also done some really good things with strength and conditioning, which provides a better experience for the student-athletes. You know the place is going in the right direction when these things happen.”

“Plus,” adds Conklin, “we love to eat out and are excited by all the new restaurants in downtown Spartanburg!” As Conklin looks toward the season, he hopes the Terrier community will continue to provide for and support the college’s student-athletes in all ways — emotional, financial and academic. “It’s not just about winning games, it’s about player development. I want to make the complete Wofford experience the best experience possible for my team.”

When Josh Conklin was named head coach of the Terriers, Rock Amick ’83 couldn’t resist sharing his excitement. He welcomed Conklin on behalf of Lowcountry alumni. From left with Wofford flags flying in an uncharacteristic Charleston, S.C., snow are Bill Cochran, Wofford parent and grandparent; Amick and his wife, Kathy, Converse College Class of 1982.
from COFFEE FARM to COLLEGE CAMPUS

WOFFORD HAS TWO COFFEE SHOPS ON CAMPUS AND HALF A DOZEN COFFEE SHOPS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE COLLEGE.

During Interim, Dr. Mark Byrnes, professor and chair of history, and Dr. Cecile Nowatka, professor of psychology, taught a class on luxury comestibles, including coffee, and Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, professor of Spanish, has served as a translator for several Little River Roasting Co. buying trips to Spanish-speaking countries. When Gervais Hollowell ’85, owner of Little River Roasting, invited Wofford photographer Mark Olencki ’75 to join him on a coffee-buying trip to Nicaragua, we couldn’t help learning more about what goes into the farming and production of coffee.

1. A worker picks out what doesn’t belong — dried cherry skins, sticks, imperfections — during the drying process at Finca Las Promesas.

2. Coffee farmer Gonzago Castillo Moreno (in the white hat), owner of Finca Las Promesas de San Blas in Dipilto, Nicaragua, offers coffee and bananas to buyers as a gesture of hospitality. Gervais Hollowell ’85 is in the white shirt with the yellow mug.

3. Workers carry bags of cherries to the pulper, some more than 100 pounds.

4. Mark Olencki ’75, Wofford’s college photographer and a great appreciator of coffee, traveled with Hollowell and the staff at Little River Roasting on their coffee-buying trip to Nicaragua in January. Wofford’s Acorn Cafe serves Little River Roasting Co. coffee.

5. Coffee farming in Nicaragua is a family business. Coffee supports more than 45,000 families that own and operate small farms.

6. The cupping room at Las Segovias ensures quality control. Hollowell checks the aroma, flavor, uniformity, and cleanliness of the coffee.

7. A worker screens the coffee coming from the pulper to keep the skins and debris away from the seeds. Pulping is the process that separates the seeds from the cherry.

8. These coffee seeds are so precious that the farmer is drying them in his living room in San Rafael del Norte. The seeds are from plants that are Roya resistant; they will be sold to farmers that need them.

9. Don Miguel’s family welcomes everyone to the kitchen for unbelievably fresh coffee.
The Clifton Presbyterian Community, a retirement community in Clifton, N.C., welcomed retired Rear Admiral Michael Caprelli as its chaplain on Dec. 7, 2017. Caprelli previously served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Simpsonville, S.C., for 21 years.


Robert Mitchell retired as deputy director of legal services for the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services at the end of June 2017. He served the organization for more than 35 years. Upon retirement he accepted a position as worship and music director at Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

Countybank of Greenville, S.C., has announced the promotion of Jim Fowler Jr. to the position of executive vice president of corporate banking and strategic initiatives. Fowler is a second-generation banker with more than 34 years of experience in the financial industry. He has been with Countybank for 19 of those years.

Hospice of North Central Ohio welcomed Chris Lark to its board of directors.

Glenn Padgett recently retired after 30 years as an educator and coach. Most recently, he served nine seasons as Concord (N.C.) High School’s head football coach. His career is highlighted by two appearances in state championship games and the highest winning percentage in Concord’s history (more than 72 percent).

The Rev. Furman Lee Buchanan, rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Greenville, S.C., coordinated an event with the Islamic Society of Greenville to donate and package more than 3,500 meals for Rice Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization serving developing countries. The interfaith event was featured in the Greenville News.

Will Penny Jr. was recognized as a certified advisor of personal insurance by the Arey Institute of Executive Education at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. The third-generation president of Penny Insurance Agency lives in Hendersonville, N.C.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution recently featured Zenobia Edwards and her nonprofit organization I, A.M.E. UNITED. L.I.C. The message of empowerment to young girls has become recognized nationally.

Liem Nguyen announced his new position supporting Honda of Mexico in Celaya, where he will be for the next two years.

The Long Road Home

Denomy and First Cavalry Black Sunday experience featured in NatGeo miniseries

by Jo Ann Mitchell Bradding ’89

In March 2004, three days after the birth of his first child, Capt. Troy Denomy ’96 deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

“We were largely in the mindset that we would be doing a lot of stabilization. We were rebuilding infrastructure,” says Denomy, who, at the time, was a captain and the commandant of Charlie Company, 2-5 Cav in the First Cav Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Less than a week into his tour, however, the peace-keeping mission changed when militants ambushed soldiers on a sanitation mission in Sadr City, Baghdad. The ensuing eight-hour citywide firefight between 800 soldiers and more than 2,000 enemy combatants left eight soldiers dead and more than 60 wounded, including Denomy.

“There were very special Americans who did very heroic things that day for their brothers to the left and to the right, says Denomy, who, along with Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky (then a lieutenant colonel), led the mission to rescue the patrol pinned down by the initial attack. ‘As Lt. Gen. Volesky says, uncom- mon valor was common that day.’”

ABC war correspondent Martha Raddatz retold the story of the events leading up to that day, which are also shown in Denomy’s memoir denoted “Belvoir, Va., for a project called Soldier Warrior.

When asked, Denomy talks about Black Sunday, but almost all of his stories are centered on his experience at Hillcrest High School, going on to play football in the Southeastern Conference for the University of Georgia.

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In October Jan Ruth Streeter Mayheu began working at Wofford in Spartanburg as a graduate assistant in the library. She has worked in libraries for 10 years and is excited to be part of the Wofford community. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with her family. She is a huge fan of the Carolina Panthers and Rooters’ Roundup.

2000
Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra selected Kenneth S. Taylor, who has been the orchestra’s executive director since 1996.

2001
Radiology Associates of Macon, Ga., announced the addition of Dr. Joshua Cooper to its practice as a diagnostic radiologist.

2002
The North Carolina Department of Public Safety announced Kimberly Dawn Grande as the new executive director of the Internet Research Board. Grande has more than a decade of experience in the field.

2003
Tripp Bradley and Carolyn Neff were married on July 29, 2017, in Greenville, S.C. The couple has three children: Lucca, Tripp Jr., and Alice.

2004
Virtudent, the first commercial teledentistry practice in the U.S., founded by Dr. Hitoshi Tolani, was featured in a Huffington Post article on Jan. 5, 2018. “Our Virtudent is working with 15 companies to increase access to healthcare.” Since its founding in 2014, Virtudent has partnered with such companies as Apple, Samsung, and Teladoc.

2005
Wofford football defensive coordinator Shiel Wood joined the staff at Georgia Tech, coaching special teams and assisting on special teams for the Yellow Jackets.

2006
South Carolina Lawyers Weekly Magazine selected Joseph Bias as one of its “Leaders in Law” nominees for 2018. Bias is a managing attorney at the Venns and Bowling law firm in Charleston.

2007

2008
Max Martin LaPrade and Joanna Capelin were married on Oct. 14, 2017, in Durango, Colorado.

THE STUFF OF LEGEND

Cooper publishes book, releases new album during 2017

When your job allows you to meet Charlie Pride, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Taylor Swift, George Jones, Merle Haggard and other country music legends, you’re bound to have stories to tell.

Peter Cooper, 93, senior director, producer and writer at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn., has met his share of legends and told his share of stories but in coffee shops, at the dinner table or on stage. In 2017 Cooper, also a senior lecturer in music at Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music, made those stories available for the world when he published “Johnny’s Cash & Charlie’s Pride: Lasting Legends and Untold Adventures in Country Music.”

“People are curious about the master musicians I’ve been privileged to know, and I’m eager to talk about them,” says Cooper. “And while there are plenty of histories written about country music, there was nothing out there similar to this book.”

With Cooper, Taylor Swift talked about baking cookies and fear, Kris Kristofferson found the courage to face his battle with demons, Loretta Lynn showed Cooper the spar- ky performance dresses she had hanging in the shower of her tour bus while talking about cooking eggs and tellin’ it like it is. Nancy Jones, George Jones’ fourth wife, asked Cooper to write the epitaph for George Jones’ gravestone, and he did. All of those stories are in this book, plus many more.

“Johnny’s Cash & Charlie’s Pride” is rich and nostalgic, sometimes funny, and always provoking, but in a amiable way, it sneaks up on you. The book is a quick read, and I was sorry for that when I turned the last page.

But don’t just take my recommendation. Don Gonyea of NPR’s “Morning Edition” and Here and Now programs listed “Johnny’s Cash & Charlie’s Pride” among his favorite readings of 2017. American Songwriter’s Paul Zollo gave it four out of five stars and called the book “a window into the real Nashville. It’s both objective and subjective. No Depression in Nashville.” Gonyea wrote in the book’s afterword, “If you want the Grand Tour, there’s no better guide than Peter Cooper, and the winsome tales in this book serve as his map, for a fascinating journey.”

As a bonus for Wofford folks, Matthew Teague ‘94 and Spring House Press published the book. Teague is a founding and editorial director for Spring House, but before that was a literary editor at the Oxford American and managing editor of Fine Woodworking and editor of Popular Woodworking Magazine. He’s a third-generation woodworker, an author, and has written stories for National Geographic, Field & Stream, and Outside magazine. With dozens of books under his belt and a journalist with bylines in Outside, Field and Stream, The Inspired House and Fine Homebuilding, although Cooper admits he didn’t know each other at Wofford, they’ve since discovered much more. “How low is nothing short of brilliant, which is not why I like him. He’s a nice person, and a great deal which is why I like him,” says Cooper.

As if publishing a critically acclaimed book during 2017 was not enough, Cooper also recorded an album, “Profiles in Courage, Frailty, & Discomfit,” with the distinct blend of what he calls “three unique yet connected sensibilities. Eric Himes is a powerful singer and a sensitive soul. Thomm Jutz is among the world’s greatest acoustic guitar players, and he’s the world’s most successful song-smashing song writer. I wrote stories that rhyme and rely on these fellows to make them stand out.”

Produced by Red Beets Records in East Nashville, “the album is three voices and three guitars, with no additions or substitutions,” says Cooper.

Although Cooper jokes that he’s probably not going to be asked to play next year’s Super Bowl halftime show, recording the album and publishing the book made 2017 a fun year.

Visit the archive:
wwwwofford.edu/from_the_archives

Read the full story about Wofford’s literary societies online at wofford.edu/woffordtoday
Sarah McClare was named one of South Carolina’s top 40 under 40 for 2018. She is chef and manager of Southside Smokehouse in Ladson, S.C.

Tidelands Health has announced the addition of Dr. Edgar Miller, who will serve as a chiefs civil affairs team leader. Their son, Roger Edward “Hank” Henderson II, was born on Oct. 13, 2017. As a civil affairs team leader, their son, Roger Edward “Hank” Henderson II, was born on Oct. 13, 2017. Edgar Miller is the medical director of the hospital’s Emergency Department.


William Brooks Dalila and Kallie Lewis Smith were married on Jan. 28, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church in Sumter, S.C. The groom is employed by BB&T Government Finance as a sales officer. The bride works for Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking as a relationship manager.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution featured Mary Frances Flowers’ Valentine’s Day themed article on Jan. 24, 2017. Mary Frances Flowers & Gifts specializes in handmade women’s jewelry and men’s goods, such as cufflinks and tie bars.

Charles Malcolm Turner and Alex Heil were married on June 6, 2017, at Greenville Country Club in Greenville, S.C. They honeymooned in Colorado and now live in Greenville.

Hunter Holladay and Louise Alsbright Smurk exchanged wedding vows on Sept. 30, 2017, at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Sumter, S.C. The bride is a sales officer. The bride works for Wells Fargo Middle Market Banking as a relationship manager.

The RSM Classic was held at the Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head, S.C., and the couple lives in Columbia. S.C. The couple lives in Greenville, S.C.

Andrew Novak qualified for the RSM Classic, allowing him to make his PGA Tour debut, after finishing in the top 25 in the 2017 Open Championship. Novak is employed with the University of Maryland as a defensive player for the Terrapins men’s lacrosse team.

The Chapman Cultural Center in Spartanburg, S.C., will offer an exhibit of newly designed utility box covers, which involved scattering art throughout the community with newly designed utility box covers. GoUpstate recently featured Veremchuk’s work, which involved scattering art throughout the community with newly designed utility box covers.

Wofford College has announced the signing of Andrew Novak by the Washington Wild Wings of the Frontier League. Novak is a first-year student at Wofford and a native of Appleton, Wis.

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Get Involved with Wofford in 2018

Matthew Waldman has taken a position as the reciprocities manager for the Bergholt Center in Roanoke, Va. He oversees concessions operations for the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs professional hockey team as well as theater performances, concerts and other special events.

In an NBC Sports article on Jan. 22, 2018, Kackie Lewis was featured for her participation and success in a baseball arbitration competition. The University of Virginia Law School student and her partner, Luke Zaro, won the competition. Reporter Craig Cakertotta detailed the case with the phrase “I had the privilege of seeing them argue in preliminary rounds as well as the finals and can say that their victory was well earned. Some opposing attorneys are going to have their hands full with these two one day.”
IN MEMORIAM

of his assignment to Test Pilot Training School and Center in Washington, D.C. He was most proud.

Dec. 12, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. King served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was known as the “one-armed bandit” by his fellow soldiers due to losing his left arm and two fingers on his right hand in a mortar blast in Germany in 1944 and the Purple Heart after being shot in the knee by a German sniper. He returned to Germany in 1953, where he became the “Bible distributor” for the military. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam, and the first Lutheran chaplain in South Vietnam, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Carole Edean Coats Wade, June 28, 2017, Conway, S.C. A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Wofford, Wade worked in marketing and sales for Boeing. She was a huge fan of Wofford athletics, and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966.

Teresa Jane Lee, Nov. 5, 2015, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Prudhomme owned Prudhomme Bros. travel agency and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966. She was a huge fan of Wofford athletics, and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966.

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Dec. 12, 2017, Spartanburg, S.C. King served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was known as the “one-armed bandit” by his fellow soldiers due to losing his left arm and two fingers on his right hand in a mortar blast in Germany in 1944 and the Purple Heart after being shot in the knee by a German sniper. He returned to Germany in 1953, where he became the “Bible distributor” for the military. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam, and the first Lutheran chaplain in South Vietnam, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Carole Edean Coats Wade, June 28, 2017, Conway, S.C. A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Wofford, Wade worked in marketing and sales for Boeing. She was a huge fan of Wofford athletics, and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966.

Teresa Jane Lee, Nov. 5, 2015, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Prudhomme owned Prudhomme Bros. travel agency and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966. She was a huge fan of Wofford athletics, and was a charter member of the Wofford Women’s Forum when it was formed in 1966.
by Jo Ann Mitchell Brasington ’89

Kim and Will Rutherford ’07 believe everyone needs a place to escape to... and from. In Escape Artist Greenville, they’ve created both.

Their custom escape room adventures are designed to “transport people to another world,” says Will. “We want to give people a fun experience that they haven’t seen somewhere else.”

That’s one of the things that set Escape Artist Greenville apart from other escape rooms. Will and Kim design each game themselves. They create the story, set the stage and are always looking for the next challenge for their guests.

Currently, Escape Artist Greenville offers four adventures: Dr. Fratelli’s Cabin (a traditional escape), the Fallout (a team-building challenge), The Inventor’s Enigma (a rescue mission) and The Lift (an abbreviated elevator scenario).

The Rutherfords started Escape Artist Greenville in 2016 and moved to their current location on 209 East Stone Ave. in Greenville, S.C., in September 2017. Their passion for creating fun experiences for others, however, started long before that.

Will, an offensive lineman for the Terriers during his college days, majored in physics partly because of his mild obsession with theme parks. He did two internships at theme parks as a student (one at Universal Studios in Orlando and the other in Germany) and was one of the masterminds behind Pi Kappa Die, the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity Halloween haunted house.

He met Kim while getting his master’s degree in engineering at Clemson University. Will earned his master’s degree in 2009 and went to work for General Electric in Florence, S.C. In 2011 GE transferred him to Greenville, where he worked with the company for five more years. During this time Will and Kim were spending much of their down time creating adventures.

“Every year we would spend months working to build and design a haunted house with 12 actors that we ran one night a year for free,” says Kim. While the two loved the creativity and camaraderie that came from the experience, it seemed a shame to do so much work for such a short period of time. At a home haunters convention, Will and Kim went to a session on escape rooms.

“We started planning on the way home,” says Will. “Kim’s the risk taker, so not long after we got back she met with a realtor and signed a lease for the space.”

Will now uses his engineering skills exclusively at Escape Artist Greenville, and Kim, a physical therapist by day, does whatever needs to be done in her off time. They also have five additional part-time team members who love dressing up, getting into character and sharing their passion for escape rooms.

According to Will, Escape Artist Greenville will have a horror room ready in time for Halloween 2018, and he and Kim are planning a comical adventure as well. “Maybe we’ll have people escape from their great-aunt’s dinner party or something like that,” says Will.

They’re even taking The Lift adventure to a wedding in October.

“Twelve people came to our escape room, became addicted and were engaged in an escape room,” says Will.

To learn more or book your escape, visit escapeartistgreenville.com.

BOOK YOUR ESCAPE
Rutherford’s invite Terriers to try Escape Artist Greenville

FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, YOU EXPECTED TERRIER TOUGHNESS ON THE FIELD AND TERRIER DETERMINATION IN THE CLASSROOM.

THANKS, COACH AYERS, FOR PREPARING CITIZENS, LEADERS AND SCHOLARS!
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INTERIM

Richard Harrison ’18, a finance major from Columbia, S.C., spent the college’s 50th Interim in Sydney, Australia, studying architecture, meeting people and writing poetry. Read more about Interim past and present on pages 8-13.